

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07076 131149Z POSS DUPE
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 EUR-08 OES-02 L-01
IO-06 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
PRS-01 SP-02 EB-03 /067 W
-----140631Z 099016 /13

R 130858Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749
INFO FUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3891
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7076

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, SU, PFOR, SENV
SUBJECT: JAPANESE CONCERNS OVER POSSIBLE SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL
MODIFICATION (ENMOD)

1. FONOFF DISARMAMENT ACTING DIVDIR YAMADA CALLED IN EMBOFF
MAY 13 TO DISCUSS "UNOFFICIALLY AND INFORMALLY" POSSIBLE
SOVIET ACTIONS IN SAKHALIN AREA WHICH MIGHT AFFECT JAPANESE
ENVIRONMENT. YAMADA EXPLAINED THAT RECENT ISSUE OF JAPANESE
WEEKLY HAD REPORTED THAT THROUGH SOME FORM OF LAND
RECLAMATION, SOVIETS WERE ENGAGED IN CONNECTING SAKHALIN
ISLAND WITH MAINLAND, THUS CLOSING MAMIYA STRAIT (TATARSKII
PROLIV). ARTICLE HAD NOT RECEIVED POPULAR ATTENTION, BUT HAD
BEEN PICKED UP BY FONOFF ENMOD SPECIALISTS.

2. YAMADA NOTED THAT RELIABILITY OF ARTICLE MIGHT BE
DUBIOUS. FONOFF COULD NOT IGNORE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER,
INASMUCH AS IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN MIGHT BE QUITE SERIOUS
SHOULD SOVIETS BE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN SUCH PROJECT.
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YAMADA OBSERVED THAT CLOSURE OF MAMIYA STRAIT COULD
DIVERT PARTICULAR COLD-WATER CURRENTS FROM SEA OF
JAPAN WITH UNFORESEEN ECOLOGICAL RESULTS. HE
NOTED THAT "UNDERSTANDINGS" RELATED TO ARTICLE II
OF ENMOD CONVENTION SPECIFICALLY LISTED "CHANGES
IN OCEAN CURRENTS" AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
TECHNIQUE.

3. YAMADA SAID THAT BECAUSE OF TENTATIVE NATURE OF EVIDENCE THUS FAR AVAILABLE, MATTER OF POSSIBLE MAMIYA STRAITS CLOSURE HAD NOT BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED EVEN WITHIN FONOFF. GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF JAPANESE-SOVIET RELATIONS, HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT HIS OFFICE NOT SOUND ANY ALARM WHICH MIGHT PROVE TO BE FALSE. IN THIS REGARD, HE ASKED "ON AN UNOFFICIAL BASIS" WHETHER USG HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH SOVIET PROJECT ON SAKHALIN.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL POUCH TO DEPARTMENT TRANSLATION OF MAGAZINE ARTICLE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR COMMENT ON REPORTED SAKHALIN PROJECT THAT MIGHT BE PASSED TO YAMADA.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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